

To the Commission:

It is my understanding that you are considering ruling on multicast must-carry rights for broadcasters in digital television in the upcoming weeks. In order for the digital transition to succeed, broadcasters, like WLTZ, must receive full cable carriage of their entire 6MHz of spectrum (which is the current requirement for analog television). Requiring the carriage of broadcasters' 6 MHz of spectrum will maintain the delicate regulatory balance that makes it possible for small independent broadcasters, like WLTZ, to be a part of the multimedia landscape in today's television industry.

Full must-carry is the only means to preserve broadcast localism and promote the diversity of television programming, and WLTZ strongly support a must-carry rule. A successful transition from analog to digital television will bring consumers new choices for video programming and ensure a competitive market. Carriage of WLTZ's full range of digital channels will serve the public's interest in Columbus, GA as well as local communities across the nation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Charles W. Collins, Program Director  
WLTZ-TV